

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An actuator for a vehicle, comprising:

a rotatable rotor;

a lever that is ~~disposed so as to be~~ swingable, having a front end that moves between a first position and a second position, wherein a back end of said lever is engaged with a locking member, and said first position corresponds to an unlocked position of the locking member and said second position corresponds to a locked position of the locking member; and

an engagement mechanism through which the lever is engaged with the rotor, the engagement mechanism including:

a protrusion disposed on the front end of said lever that engages with the rotor; and

a guide mechanism that makes, along with rotation of the rotor, the lever swing between the first position and the second position, and allows, when the rotor stops rotating, a movement of the lever without turning the rotor, wherein the guide mechanism includes:

a contact portion that comes in sliding contact with the protrusion to swing the lever;

a guide portion that guides the protrusion to the contact portion; and

an allowing means for allowing, when the rotor stops rotating, thea movement of the protrusion without turning the rotor, the movement being between a first halting position and a second halting position, wherein the first halting position is located at one end of the allowing

means and the second halting position is located at an opposite end of the allowing means, and wherein the first halting position corresponds to the first position of the lever and the second halting position corresponds to the second position of the lever, positions without turning the rotor,

wherein the protrusion always stops at one of the first and second halting positions of the allowing means regardless of whether the lever is at the first position or the second position, and

wherein the lever is swingable between the first and second positions without operation of the motor, only when allowed by the allowing means.

2. (canceled).

3. (previously presented): The actuator according to claim 1, wherein the guide mechanism includes

a first slide guide portion that comes in contact with the protrusion to slide the protrusion to the guide portion during rotation of the rotor in a first direction; and

a second slide guide portion that comes in contact with the protrusion to slide the protrusion to the movement support portion during rotation of the rotor in a second direction, the second direction being opposite to the first direction.

4. (previously presented): The actuator according to claim 1, wherein the contact portion includes a first contact portion and a second contact portion that extend in different directions.

5. (original): The actuator according to claim 4, wherein
the first contact portion slides the lever to the second position during rotation of the rotor
in a first direction, and
the second contact portion slides the lever to the first position during rotation of the rotor
in a second direction, the second direction being opposite to the first direction.

6. (canceled).

7. (new): The actuator according to claim 1, wherein the allowing means includes
an arc shaped portion disposed between the first halting position and the second halting position,
and wherein the arc shape has an output shaft as its center, wherein the output shaft supports the
lever.